

Joshua 6:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the LORD said unto Joshua, See, I have given into thine hand Jericho, and the king thereof, and the mighty men of valour.

Analysis

God's declaration—"See, I have given into thine hand Jericho, and the king thereof, and the mighty men of valour"—uses past tense ('I have given') for future conquest. From divine perspective, victory is already accomplished; Israel simply receives what God provides. This grammatical choice teaches faith to claim promises before seeing fulfillment. The comprehensive gift includes city, king, and warriors—nothing excluded from divine grant. Such comprehensive promises demand equally comprehensive faith.

Historical Context

Jericho was Canaan's gateway city, heavily fortified with double walls. Its conquest established Israel's presence in Canaan and demoralized other cities. The famous archaeological debate about Jericho's walls centers on dating—some evidence suggests destruction around 1400 BC (matching early Exodus date), while other evidence points to earlier destruction. Regardless, the biblical testimony presents miraculous collapse attributable to God, not human siege tactics. This established the pattern: God fights for Israel.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does God's past-tense promise ('I have given') affect your faith for current challenges?
2. What seemingly impregnable 'Jerichos' face you that require trusting God's comprehensive victory promise?

Interlinear Text

וַיֹּאמֶר	יְהוָה	אֶל	יְהוֹשֻׁעַ	רִא	נָתַן	בְּ יָדֶךָ
said	And the LORD	H413	unto Joshua	See	I have given	into thine hand
H559	H3068		H3091	H7200	H5414	H3027
וְאַתָּה	מֶלֶךְ	הַ	גִּבְעֹן	וְאֶת	בְּחִילָה	
Jericho	and the king	H4428	thereof and the mighty men	of valour		H2428
H853	H853		H1368			

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 7:24 (Kingdom): And he shall deliver their kings into thine hand, and thou shalt destroy their name from under heaven: there shall no man be able to stand before thee, until thou have destroyed them.

Joshua 8:1 (Kingdom): And the LORD said unto Joshua, Fear not, neither be thou dismayed: take all the people of war with thee, and arise, go up to Ai: see, I have given into thy hand the king of Ai, and his people, and his city, and his land:

Joshua 2:24 (References Lord): And they said unto Joshua, Truly the LORD hath delivered into our hands all the land; for even all the inhabitants of the country do faint because of us.

Joshua 2:9 (References Lord): And she said unto the men, I know that the LORD hath given you the land, and that your terror is fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land faint because of you.

Nehemiah 9:24 (Kingdom): So the children went in and possessed the land, and thou subduedst before them the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites, and gavest them into their hands, with their kings, and the people of the land, that they might do with them as they would.

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